

COMMEMORATING THE 36TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF EQUAL PAY ACT

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 1999*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, thirty-six years ago today, President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act. In 1963, when this law was enacted, women earned only 58 cents for every dollar earned by men.

Since then, women have made great strides. For example, women are now a major part of our Nation's workforce and have started their own businesses in record numbers. Women are being admitted to college and graduating at rates on par with men, often breaking into many fields which were formerly open only to men.

Yet in spite of these gains, the wage gap between men and women still persists. Today women earn only 75 cents for every dollar a man earns, and for minority women, the wage gap is even greater. African American women earn 65 cents and Hispanic women only 55 cents for every dollar earned by a man.

The tragedy of this wage discrepancy is highlighted by the fact that four out of every five households depend on a woman's income just to make ends meet. This crisis is further exacerbated by the rise in female-headed households, which makes women's income critical to the well-being of our Nation's children.

When you consider that receiving less pay means that women will also have less retirement security, the enormity of the problem is magnified. For example, less than 40% of women in the private sector have pensions, and those with pensions receive 50% less than what men receive. This is a critical problem given that women tend to outlive men, often by several years.

So, although women have made some gains since President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act, clearly, much more needs to be done to erase the disparity in wages that exists between men and women in order to achieve true pay equity.

Two bills have been introduced during this Congress that seek to remedy this wage disparity: H.R. 541, the Paycheck Fairness Act, introduced by Congresswoman ROSA DELAUNO, and H.R. 1271, the Fair Pay Act, introduced by Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

The Paycheck Fairness Act strengthens current law by allowing women to collect damages for pay discrimination. It also ensures that employers who have taken steps to provide equal pay get the recognition they deserve. The Fair Pay Act prohibits wage discrimination based on sex, race, or national origin for work in equivalent jobs.

I encourage my colleagues in Congress to support these important bills, and I urge the leadership of the House of Representatives to take action to address the issue of wage inequality in our country.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING BREAD FOR  
THE WORLD ON ITS 25TH ANNI-  
VERSARY

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 1999*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Bread of the World organization on its 25th anniversary of seeking to feed the world's neediest individuals—those who suffer from hunger. There is no more basic need for survival than adequate nutrition, and these dedicated, compassionate volunteers are deserving of our deepest thanks. Without their efforts, millions of people around the globe might literally have starved to death in the past quarter century.

For 25 years, Bread for the World has been blessed with the commitment of tens of thousands of people united to one goal: seeking justice for the world's hungry people. This month, I join my colleagues in Congress and on the board of Bread for the World in welcoming Bread for the World members to Washington for their National Gathering, Silver Anniversary Celebration, and Annual Lobby Day.

Bread for the World is a nonpartisan, Christian citizens' movement. Its mission is to change public policy to address the root causes of hunger and poverty in the United States and the world. Bread for the World members lobby the nation's decision-makers for policies that benefit hungry and poor people in the United States and around the world.

The organization was launched in 1974, after a small group of Catholics and Protestants began meeting to reflect on how persons of faith could be mobilized to influence U.S. policies that address the causes of hunger. Under the leadership of the Reverend Arthur Simon, the group quickly grew. Now, more than 44,000 members and churches belong to the ranks of Bread for the World and, led by the Reverend David Beckmann, serve as citizen advocates for hungry people.

Year after year, Bread for the World members win victories for hungry people from increased funding for child nutrition programs to investments in African farmers to restoration of food stamps to vulnerable legal immigrants. This year, Bread for the World members are part of Jubilee 2000, a worldwide movement for debt relief, and are supporting legislation providing debt relief for poverty reduction.

I am proud to be a member of the Board of Directors of Bread for the World. I believe it is nothing short of criminal that children go to bed hungry in this, the wealthiest nation in the world. Hunger is a completely preventable condition that stunts the growth and health of our youth and cripples the ability of adults to contribute to our society. I have long worked to fight hunger, sponsoring bills like the Hunger Has a Cure Act and fighting cuts in food stamps, the school breakfast/lunch program, Emergency Food Assistance, and WIC, among others. My commitment to this issue is unwavering.

In this 25th anniversary year of Bread for the World, I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks for their advocacy and wish them continued blessings in the years ahead,

*June 14, 1999*

as they seek an end to hunger. There are few higher callings.

IN HONOR OF THE TENTH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE NEW YORK  
CITY LAB SCHOOL

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 1999*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute and commend an exceptional public school in New York City as it celebrates its 10th Anniversary. The New York City Laboratory School for Gifted Education is a prime example of public school education at its best.

The school was founded in 1988 with the help of former Board of Education Chancellor Joseph Fernandez and the former District 2 Superintendent Anthony Alvarado. Since its inception, this school has continued to provide a nurturing, safe environment for gifted children, allowing them to the freedom to explore their interests and broaden their horizons while they are enrolled as students.

The New York City Lab School strives to provide each child with an individualized and research-based curriculum where they are challenged to work both independently and collaboratively with their peers. The students also have the opportunity to take advantage of the school's excellent academic and extra-curricular programs such as Spanish as a Foreign Language award winning Math and Chess Teams, and university partnerships with New York University and City College.

State of the art facilities such as the new Media Center, libraries in every classroom and both IBM and Macintosh computers in every room all contribute to the vibrant and enriching environment of this school. All of these factors have proven successful with students.

The New York City Lab School was the highest performer on the New York State Fourth grade English test. IN 1997 they were second in the city and in 1998 their scores had risen by 17%.

Best of all might be the students, faculty and staff of the school itself. The children are not only gifted but they all possess a love of learning and are all curious and excited about the many experiences they have had and will have in the future at their school.

The faculty are constantly challenged to take risks in the classroom and introduce students to new and interesting ways to respond to their ideas and questions. Faculty are also consistently questioning their own teaching styles and methods so that they may improve and continue to provide excellent interactions with the students.

The leadership of the director, Ms. Elizabeth Marra Kasowitz, is an important guiding force behind this school. With her dedication and consistent role in the school, she is able to work alongside the entire school community to help continue the school's long standing reputation of excellence and dedication to a gifted education.

Parents also play an important role in the community of the New York City Lab School. Parents of students contribute great amounts